

Our New Family

Galatians 3:(18-22)23-4:7
Stephanie Fehr | May 17

Galatians 3:19-4:7

- vv.19-25: For Such a Time, The Law
- vv.26-4:7: Our New Family

vv.19-25: For Such a Time, The Law

- v.19: "Why, then, was the law given at all?"
- v.19: the law "was added because of transgressions"
 - "the purpose of the law was to keep a sinful people in the way of salvation" (MSG)
- Romans 3:20: "through the law, we become conscious of our sin"

vv.19-25: For Such a Time, The Law

- v.24: the law as "our guardian" - *paidagōgos*
- Slave, put in charge of a child, companion, kept out of trouble
- The law played a role in humanity's development
- We have outgrown the law

vv.19-25: For Such a Time, The Law

- v. 24-25: "So the law was our guardian (pedagogue) until Christ came that we might be justified by faith. Now that this faith has come, we are no longer under a guardian (pedagogue)."
- We see echoes of the law in following Christ

vv.26-4:7: Our New Family

- v.26: "So in Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith, for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ."
- Become God's children (v.7), heirs (v.7), adopted into sonship (v.5)
 - Heir - eldest, like Christ
 - Sonship - adult males

vv.26-4:7: Our New Family

- We call God - "Abba, Father" (v.6) - personal term
- We're adopted, accepted, and IN the tight-knit family of God

vv.26-4:7: Our New Family

- 3:27: baptism
 - All can participate, any gender
 - Circumcision - only males

vv.26-4:7: Our New Family

- 3:27: clothing metaphor - "clothed yourselves with Christ"
- Intentional about about turning to Christ
- Changes how we act
- We're all on the same team

vv.26-4:7: Our New Family

- 3:28: "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus."
- This is not Paul ignoring differences
- Uniformity - sameness; Unity - separate individuals or groups act together in a shared common purpose

vv.26-4:7: Our New Family

- Prayer by Socrates: "First, that I was born a human being and not one of the brutes; next, that I was born a man and not a woman; thirdly, a Greek and not a barbarian."

vv.26-4:7: Our New Family

Praised be you, Adonai our God, King of the universe, because you have not made me a Gentile.

Praised be you, Adonai our God, King of the universe, because you have not made me a woman.

Praised be you, Adonai our God, King of the universe, because you have not made me a slave.

vv.26-4:7: Our New Family

- 3:28: There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus.

vv.26-4:7: Our New Family

- Cultural mandate: In Christ, there is neither Jew nor Gentile.
- Scot McKnight: "cultural divisions are to have no part in the church of Jesus Christ."
- Takeaway: what would be the cultural mandate for us?

vv.26-4:7: Our New Family

- The Social Mandate: In Christ, there is no slave or free.
 - Slavery was ubiquitous
 - Paul is criticized for not calling for the full emancipation of slaves
 - Philemon: Paul tells Philemon to treat his slave Onesimus as a brother, encouraged Philemon to free him

vv.26-4:7: Our New Family

- The Social Mandate: In Christ, there is no slave or free.
 - Imagine a gathering of slave and free together - would lead to abolition of slavery
 - Consider wealth disparity today

vv.26-4:7: Our New Family

- The Social Mandate: In Christ, there is no slave or free.
- Takeaway: what would be the social mandate for us?

vv.26-4:7: Our New Family

- The Sexual Mandate: In Christ, neither male nor female.
- Context: believed inferiority of women; patriarchy
- Criticism of Paul - he doesn't call for equality of the sexes
- People served as the Spirit enabled/gifted

vv.26-4:7: Our New Family

- The Sexual Mandate: In Christ, neither male nor female.
- Takeaway: what would be the sexual mandate for us today?

Takeaways

- In Christ... We celebrate our multi-ethnic, multi-cultural family of God
- In Christ... We celebrate our socially and economically diverse family of God
- In Christ... We celebrate the Spirit's gifting and enablement as the Spirit is poured out on all people.

Takeaways

- Beauty of unity, not uniformity, as we are all part of the family of God
- All are welcome to contribute to the harmony as we together grow in our love for God, one another, and all people on this journey of becoming more like Christ together